

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 01377 101116Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 SP-02 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00
DODE-00 INR-05 PM-03 IO-06 ACDA-10 MCT-01 SSM-01
USIA-01 PRS-01 TRSE-00 /058 W
-----101137Z 103531 /17

P R 100952Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 865
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T AMMAN 1377

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PLO, JO, XF
SUBJECT: TALKS WITH KING AND CROWN PRINCE - SUMMIT AND PLO

1. KING WAS IN TOUCH WITH ME BRIEFLY BY TELEPHONE FEBRUARY 9 AFTER HIS RETURN FROM CAIRO. HIS REPORT WAS THAT CAIRO MEETINGS WENT WELL, BUT THAT NOTHING MUCH WENT ON THAT NOT COVERED IN PUBLIC REPORTING.

2. HE SAID THAT HIS MEETINGS WITH ARAFAT AND OTHERS ON THE SIDE AGAIN INDICATED THAT PLO IS STILL IN GREAT DISARRAY AND THAT HE EXPECTED THEY WOULD HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME AMONG THEMSELVES COMING TO AGREEMENT IN SESSION OF PNC WHICH BEGINS IN TWO DAYS. (KING'S VIEWS ON THIS ARE QUITE OBVIOUSLY COLORED BY HIS CONTINUING DISTASTE FOR ARAFAT AND OTHERS IN PLO LEADERSHIP AND ARE NO SURPRISE EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE CONSISTENT WITH GENERAL PREDICTAIONS THROUGHOUT THE AREA THAT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES ARE NOT TO BE EXPECTED AT PNC CAIRO SESSION).

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3. KING ALSO SAID THAT SADAT ON TARMAC WAITING FOR HIM TO LEAVE HAD BEEN HARD IN HIS COMMENTS ON PLO. THIS EVENT COVERED SILENTLY ON LOCAL TELEVISION, BUT SADAT'S GESTURES WERE VIGOROUS AND CONVERSATION OBVIOUSLY INTENSE. (KING HAS HEARD ALL THIS BEFORE (I.E. THAT SADAT CAN MODERATE PLO POSITIONS) AND WE ARE

JUST A BIT SURPRISED THAT HE STILL CONTINUES TO BE MESMERIZED BY SADAT ON THIS POINT, ALTHOUGH SADAT'S PREVIOUS CONFIDENT STATEMENTS ABOUT PLO CHANGING THE CHARTER WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH POINTS HE MADE TO KING ON THE PRESSURE HE HAS AND INTENDS TO PUT ON PLO).

4. KING ARRIVED IN MIDST OF ENORMOUS PRACTICAL JOKE HE PLAYED ON HIS BROTHER CROWN PRINCE HASSAN, WHICH LED TO MY TALK WITH HIM. JUST BEFORE KING'S ARRIVAL, HASSAN HAD CALLED ME TO SAY HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A CABLE FROM KING'S AIRCRAFT WHICH, HE SAID, INDICATED KING BRINGING ARAFAT WITH HIM. ONE HOUR LATER HE CALLED ME BACK TO SAY IT HAD ALL BEEN A JOKE. KING THEN CAME ON AND SAID IN EFFECT HE HAD SENT CABLE INDICATING THAT HE HAD "VIPS" ON BOARD HIS AIRCRAFT AND THAT HASSAN SHOULD PREPARE APPROPRIATE SECURITY AND ENDING WITH THE WORDS THAT "HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF" WHICH HASSAN TOOK TO BE A REFERENCE TO KING'S HAVING BROUGHT PLO LEADER SHUKAIRY BACK WITH HIM FROM TRIP IN 1967 AND THAT HE WAS THEREFORE NOW BRINGING PLO LEADER ARAFAT WITH HIM.

5. WHEN I TALKED WITH HASSAN THIS MORNING (FEB 10) HE SAID THAT WHAT WAS REALLY INTERESTING WAS THE REACTION OF THE GROUP AT THE AIRPORT WHO WERE INFORMED BY HASSAN THAT ARAFAT WAS COMING WITH THE KING. FIRST, HASSAN SAID THAT ONLY THE KING COULD BRING ARAFAT TO JORDAN AND EXPECT TO PROTECT HIM. THE ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF (BIN SHAKER) SAID HE COULD NOT PROVIDE SECURITY FOR ARAFAT WITH THE ARMY, STATING THAT THE ARMY COULD NOT PROTECT
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HIM. THE POLICE WERE THEN TOLD BY HASSAN TO DO THEIR BEST. THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, A LOYALIST CIRCASSIN, WHEN HE HEARD ARAFAT WAS COMING, LEFT THE AIRPORT FOR GOOD. VARIOUS PALESTINIANS IN THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE SHOWED VARYING DEGREES OF UNEASE OR EXCITEMENT AT THE PROSPECT OF THE PLO LEADER'S ARRIVAL. HASSAN SAID HE LIMITED THE TARMAC GREETING COMMITTEE TO FOUR MEMBERS AND THEN MILITARY POLICE, KEEPING THE REST INDOORS, AND RESTRICTED THE PRESS COVERAGE. HE DID NOT KNOW ARAFAT WAS NOT COMING UNTIL KING'S PARTY HAD ALL LEFT THE PLANE.

6. WHILE IT STARTED OUT AS A PRIVATE JOKE BETWEEN BROTHERS, SOME INTERESTING INSIGHTS EMERGED. IN PARTICULAR, WE BELIEVE THE ARMY WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO HANDLE IF ARAFAT CAME HERE IN THE NEAR FUTURE UNLESS HE WERE UNDER THE PERSONAL PROTECTION OF THE KING. FEELINGS STILL RUN DEEP OVER 1970.

7. AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, EMBASSY'S INITIAL (AND AS IT

TURNED OUT ERRONEOUS) MESSAGE REPORTING ARAFAT'S ARRIVAL
ON THE BASIS OF HASSAN'S PHONE CALL WAS BLOCKED BY THE
FIRST COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE OUTAGE WE HAVE HAD IN
MANY MONTHS AND WAS NEVER SENT.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977AMMAN01377
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770082-0656
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
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Image Path:
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Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 53bbd1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3155460
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALKS WITH KING AND CROWN PRINCE - SUMMIT AND PLO
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JO, XF, PLO, (HUSSEIN I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/53bbd1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009